

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Universal Service Gigabit Communities	)	RM No. 11703
Race-to-the-Top Program	)	

**COMMENTS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS AND ADVISORS**

The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (“NATOA”)<sup>1</sup> has long advocated for increased deployment and adoption of advanced communications services to all Americans. Whether it is through community networks, incumbent providers, or unique public/private partnerships, we believe our residents and businesses need access to affordable high-speed broadband service. These services drive economic development, and can improve educational opportunities, social interaction, and civic engagement.

Today, only a limited number of communities have access to and are benefiting from high-speed broadband. Unfortunately, the vast majority of our communities, particularly those in rural and less densely populated areas of the country, are losing out on the many proven benefits these services provide. The costs of building these networks and ensuring a continuing revenue stream means that many communities are going without critical infrastructure that can help transform the lives of our citizens and the future of our economies.

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<sup>1</sup> NATOA is a national trade association that promotes local government interests in communications, and serves as a resource for local officials as they seek to promote communications infrastructure development.

As a result, NATOA lends its support to the Fiber to the Home Council Americas' proposal of a Gigabit Communities Race to the Top Program. Such a program, which would make use of existing funding sources, would facilitate the development of a critical mass of communities with "gigabit" networks, which, in turn, will accelerate their deployment across the country. While further discussion and refinement of various aspects of the program is needed, we believe the overall concept and goals of the program would be beneficial to communities across the country. NATOA urges the Commission to act promptly on the petition and, as always, we stand ready to assist the Commission as this proceeding unfolds.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Traylor", written in a cursive style.

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